



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.1707 | FAX (517) 373.3935
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/toy/

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Contact: Heather Lombardini
(517) 373-1707

Sen. Laura M. Toy's bill to license dietitians, nutritionists signed into law

LANSING – Legislation to begin licensing dietitians and nutritionists in Michigan has been signed into law by the governor, announced state Sen. Laura M. Toy, 6th District.

“Right now, anyone can legally call themselves a nutritionist and offer advice on proper diet and nutrition,” said Sen. Toy, who sponsored the legislation. “Particularly in the face of fad diets and unregulated supplements, consumers need to know who they can trust to help them make informed decisions about their health.”

Toy's measure sets minimum education standards and licensing guidelines for persons practicing as dietitians or nutritionists in Michigan. The new law also sets continuing education requirements in line with American Dietetic Association recommendations as a condition of license renewal.

Currently, 44 other states license, register, or certify dietitians and nutritionists.

“This is really needed,” said Terri Godfroid-Marecki, a registered dietitian and Livonia city councilwoman. “We're very grateful for Senator Toy's hard work on this issue.”

Senate Bill 403 becomes Public Act 333 of 2006, and marks Toy's 20th bill signed into law since entering the Senate in 2003.

In 2005, Toy was named Legislator of the Year by the Michigan Dietetic Association.

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